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of cultures the algae present in the form of "resting spores," protonema from certain soils began to develop. In these soils the protonema had persisted in the dried condition for 46, 48, and 49 years. A description is given of the appearance of the cells, which seemed to be in vigorous condition. Moss spores contain chlorophyll and are usually short-lived. "Hence the power to produce a resting protonema filament which is able to resume growth, even after half a century, is a great asset to the plant in preventing its extinction through adverse climatic conditions."—J. M. C.

**Anatomy of *Drimys*.**—The genus *Drimys* (Magnoliaceae), belonging to the Southern Hemisphere, is very interesting on account of the absence of vessels. JEFFREY and COLE<sup>32</sup> have investigated its wound reactions from material obtained from New Zealand and Java, and also from material at Kew. As a result of injury, the roots develop peculiar tracheary structures, which are regarded as a "reversionary return of vessels" because the markings of the lateral walls resemble those found in the vessels of the Magnoliaceae. They are clearly distinct from ordinary tracheids, but lack the perforations of normal vessels. The authors conclude that these traumatic structures are to be interpreted as a clear indication of the former presence of vessels in *Drimys*.—J. M. C.

**A cedar swamp on Long Island.**—A swamp on the southern shore of Long Island, New York, about one mile long and half as wide, is, according to TAYLOR,<sup>33</sup> of special interest because (1) it is probably the most northerly grove of *Chamaecyparis thyoides* on the coastal plain of anything like that size; (2) the character of the undergrowth, which includes 77 per cent of species northern in character; and (3) it affords evidence of coastal subsidence in the transition between the swamp and the open salt marsh and in the number of dead and dying trees. This evidence is all the more convincing because of the remoteness of any barrier beach or other possible regulator of exceptional tides, a possible alternative to recent subsidence.—GEO. D. FULLER.

**Flora of Isle Royale, Michigan.**—COOPER<sup>34</sup> has supplemented his excellent ecological analysis of the vegetation of Isle Royale<sup>35</sup> by a catalogue of its vascular plants. As a list of the mosses of the same island was previously

<sup>32</sup> JEFFREY, EDWARD C., and COLE, RUTH D., Experimental investigations on the genus *Drimys*. Ann. Botany 30:359-368. pl. 7. 1916.

<sup>33</sup> TAYLOR, NORMAN, A white cedar swamp at Merrick, Long Island, and its significance. Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 6:79-88. 1916.

<sup>34</sup> COOPER, W. S., A catalogue of the flora of Isle Royale, Lake Superior, Michigan. Acad. Sci. Report 16:109-131. 1914.

<sup>35</sup> ———, The climax forests of Isle Royale. BOT. GAZ. 55:1-44, 115-140, 189-235. 1913.

published,<sup>36</sup> this catalogue advances the region to the position of having one of the very few well known floras in the state. The present list includes 40 species of pteridophytes and 479 species of spermatophytes. One happy improvement in the present publication is the ecological definition of the habitat, replacing such time-honored but meaningless phrases as "hillsides," "glades," "woods," and "cool dry woods."—GEO. D. FULLER.

**Plants of the Florissant lake beds.**—These beds in Colorado have been famous for 50 years for their abundance of finely preserved fossil plants and insects. KNOWLTON<sup>37</sup> has now published a review of the plant material on deposit in the U.S. National Museum. Over 100 plants are presented, and among them 18 new species are described, chiefly woody dicotyledons. Two new genera are proposed; *Palaeopotamogeton* (Potamogetonaceae) and *Floris-santia* (Solanaceae). The list of types of fossil plants from Florissant in the U.S. National Museum includes the names of 121 species.—J. M. C.

**Mushroom fairy rings.**—The occurrence of well developed "fairy rings" formed by a large mushroom known as *Tricholoma praemagnum* in the dry grassland of the open mountain parks of Colorado has been described by RAMALEY.<sup>38</sup> They have been observed in various localities, but all between 6000 and 9000 ft. in altitude. The rings vary much in size, the smallest observed being 3.3 m. across, and seen to increase in diameter at a rate of about 1 dm. per year. One of the interesting characteristics of the fungus is its distinctly xerophytic habit.—GEO. D. FULLER.

**Aerating system.**—HUNTER<sup>39</sup> has studied the structure of various air chambers in plants of *Vicia Faba* and has found spaces of various sorts in the testa of the seed, the cotyledons, the stem, the leaves, and the root. The study adds to our knowledge of the aerating system as developed in seed plants, even if it rather fails to justify the author's conclusion that the system is "elaborately adjusted in order to insure an efficient gaseous exchange for each living cell no matter where its position may be in the plant tissues."—GEO. D. FULLER.

<sup>36</sup> COOPER, W. S., A list of mosses collected upon Isle Royale, Lake Superior. *Bryologist* 16:3-8. 1913.

<sup>37</sup> KNOWLTON, F. H., A review of the fossil plants in the U.S. National Museum from the Florissant lake beds at Florissant, Colorado, with descriptions of new species and list of type specimens. *Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus.* 51:241-297. *pls. 12-27.* 1916.

<sup>38</sup> RAMALEY, FRANCIS, Mushroom fairy rings of *Tricholoma praemagnum*. *Torreya* 16:193-199. 1916.

<sup>39</sup> HUNTER, C., The aerating system of *Vicia Faba*. *Ann. Botany* 29:627-634. 1915.